

7. Be Considerate of Other Visitors and Users



For some people, a trip to wild Alaska is a once-in-a-lifetime experience that requires significant time, money and effort to realize. For others, wild Alaska is their local backyard. However we recreate, we all appreciate our public lands. By conducting ourselves in a manner that respects other visitors and types of use, we preserve the quality of the Alaskan experience for everyone.

- Inquire with local USFS staff as to what kinds of use are common, where and when, in order to keep your trip expectations realistic.
- Respect regulations designed to protect visitor experiences.
- Avoid popular times and areas to minimize visitor conflicts.
- Travel in smaller groups to maintain flexibility and to minimize your impact to others in the wild.
- Commercial operators should coordinate with other operators to avoid schedule and location conflicts and to determine how to resolve overlapping use.

Be courteous.

- Maintaining a cooperative spirit in the backcountry allows us to bond over our common appreciation for our public wildlands.
- Recognize that our attitudes toward one another color our experiences when we meet in the backcountry.
- Keep in mind that in times of need, it will often be your backcountry neighbor who will be there to offer you assistance.

Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience.

- Choose clothes and gear that are natural-toned and blend in with the background.
- Be mindful not to crowd others when deciding where to camp.
- Consider your visual impact as well as the best durable surface when choosing where to camp.
- Discuss with other user-groups where they intend to camp when you are transiting the same area at the same time to avoid crowding each other.



Respect subsistence users.

- Hunting, trapping, fishing and gathering remain a vital part of Alaskans' subsistence way of life.
- Subsistence activities occur throughout the year on Alaska's public lands.
- Do not disturb equipment, caches, structures and activities.

Respect Native and private lands and cabins.

- Recognize that there are 44 million acres of Alaskan native lands and innumerable private inholdings and permitted cabins interspersed with the public lands in Alaska.
- Obtain permission to transit native/private land, follow regulations and pay applicable fees.



Let nature's sounds prevail.

- Only yell if it is absolutely necessary.
- Don't shout or blow horns to generate echoes.
- Be mindful of how well sound carries over water.
- Turn off your cell phone or leave it at home.
- Listen to music through headphones or save it for when you are back in town.
- Teach children not to yell but to respect the sounds of nature and to identify various animal calls.

